

0267-001-0931CON7

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4 are pending in this application. Entry of the present amendment to the specification and favorable review of the application are respectfully requested.

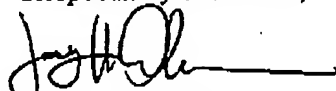
In a telephone conversation with the undersigned attorney on May 17, 2006, the Examiner kindly suggested that the specification be amended to make an explicit reference to prior applications under 37 C.F.R. § 1.78(a), in order to claim the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120. (This reference was made in the application transmittal letter when the present application was filed, and was acknowledged by the Patent and Trademark Office in the filing receipt.)

In response to the Examiner's suggestion, and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.78(a) and MPEP § 201.11, a section with the heading "CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS" has been added at the beginning of the specification. The applicants claim the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 of the prior-filed applications listed therein.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the applicants respectfully request favorable review and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' attorney may be reached by telephone at 212-801-2217. All correspondence should continue to be directed to the address associated with Customer Number 31108 which is also listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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